

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a cell culture support comprising a microcarrier bead coated with a gelatine-like protein, the process comprising the step of coating a microcarrier bead with ~~gelatine~~ or a gelatine-like protein, said ~~gelatine~~ or gelatine-like protein having a molecular weight of from about 40 kDa to about 200 kDa, wherein at least 95% of the amino acid residues of the gelatine-like protein consist of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and wherein the gelatine-like protein comprises at least 15% of proline residues and less than 5% of hydroxyproline residues.

13. (original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the microcarrier bead is a non-porous bead.

14. (original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the microcarrier bead is a porous bead.

15. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine~~ or gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of more than 60 kDa.

16. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine~~ or gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of less than about 150 kDa.

17. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, further comprising the step of ~~immobilising~~ immobilizing the ~~gelatine~~ or gelatine-like protein on the microcarrier.

18. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein more than 75% of the ~~gelatine~~ or gelatine-like protein has ~~the same~~ a uniform molecular weight optionally within 2% of a selected molecular weight.

19. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine~~ or

gelatine-like protein is recombinantly produced.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine or~~ gelatine-like protein has a net positive charge at pH 7-7.5.

22. (cancelled)

23. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the gelatine-like protein comprises a single polypeptide chain.

24. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the gelatine-like protein is essentially free of hydroxyproline residues.

25. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the microcarrier beads comprise a material selected from the group consisting of modified dextran, cross-linked cellulose, porous polystyrene, diethylaminoethyl dextran, chemically modified polysaccharides and unmodified polysaccharides and optionally at least 90% of the beads have a size in the range of from 50 μm to 500 μm .

26. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the process is employed for producing microcarrier beads coated with the gelatine-like protein in bioreactors optionally with a loading of microcarrier beads in the bioreactor of from about 20 g/l to 40 g/l.

27. (new) The process according to claim 19 wherein the gelatine-like protein comprises a single polypeptide chain and more than 75% of the gelatine-like protein has a uniform molecular weight within 2% of a selected molecular weight, the selected molecular weight being more than 60 kDa and less than about 150 kDa.

28. (new) A cell culture support prepared by the process of claim 12.

29. (new) A cell culture support prepared by the process of claim 27.